

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
4 March 2004 (04.03.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/018984 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G01J 3/46**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2003/003479

(22) International Filing Date: 6 August 2003 (06.08.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0219479.3 21 August 2002 (21.08.2002) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]**;
Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **SIMONS, Paul, R.**

[GB/GB]; Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB). **McPHERSON, Duncan, F.** [GB/GB]; Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB).

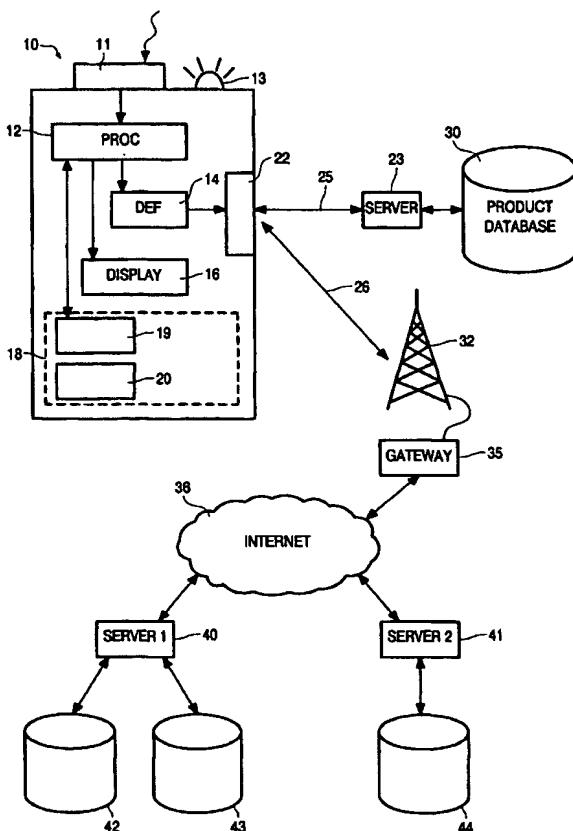
(74) Agent: **WHITE, Andrew, G.**; Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MATCHING COLOURS



(57) Abstract: A portable colour sampling device (10) facilitates comparison of a colour sampled from an object using an optical sensor (11) with a database (30,42,43,44) of stored colours. The database (30,42,43,44) of stored colours includes a merchandise database of articles for sale, and an indication of the location of those articles, including an indication of some or all of retailer identity, store location, in-store location, article description or product ID, class of article and the like. A user points the colour sampling device at an article to be sampled, and a colour definition data file is generated for transmission to a database of articles. The database returns to the sampling device a list of merchandise that matches the sampled colour or colours and any other matching criteria such as class of article, product code, and geographic proximity.